

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R *31220Z J*N 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 454

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E * T I A L COLOMBO 0253

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, IO

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA

REF STATE 12770

1. JOE ALSOP ARTICLE RE UPGRADING OF DIEGO GARCIA BROKE IN CEYLONSE PRESS TODAY AND UNFORTUNATELY AT TIME WHEN THREE CHAMPIONS OF NON-ALIGNMENT, GANDHI, TITO AND BANDARANAIKE, ARE GATHERING IN NEW DELHI (COLOMBO 195).

2. THANKS TO ALSOP PIECE, I LEARNED FOR FIRST TIME FROM REFTEL THAT WE ARE PLANNING TO DICUSS UPGRADING THIS WEEK WITH BRITISH AND ARE ABOUT TO NOTIFY CONGRESS OF OUR PLANS. I HOPE DEPT WILL AGREE THAT THIS EMBASSY HAS MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST IN STATUS OF DIEGO GARCIA. SRI LANKA IS PRIME MOVER OF INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL AND SRI LANKA AND MALDIVES ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY CLOSER TO DIEGO THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRIES. THEY NATURALLY CONSIDER DEVELOPMENTS IN CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO AS AFFECTING THEIR INTERESTS.

3. WE WILL MAINTAIN "NO COMMENT" POSITION IN REPLY TO PRESS INQUIRIES ON ALSOP ARTICLA BUT THIS STANCE MAY BECOME MORE DIFFICULT WITH APPEARANCE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE, JUST RECEIVED (STATE 014470). HOWEVER, I WOULD APPRECIATE FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL

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SOONEST: (A) FOR MY PRIVATE INFORMATION, RATIONALE AND SPECIFIC DETAILS ON OUR PLANS AND TIMETABLE FOR CHANGING STATUS OF DIEGO GARCIA; (B) GUIDANCE RE DIEGO'S FUTURE FOR USE WITH SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT.

VAN HOLLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB00253
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750001-1463
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740175/abbrzare.tel
Line Count: 58
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 DEC 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <23-Jul-2001 by maustmc, RDFRD>; RELEASED <18 DEC 2002 by golinofr>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: MARR, UK, IO, IR, IN, (GARCIA, DIEGO)
To: STATE INFO LONDON
NEW DELHI
TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005